



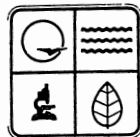
YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

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ADMINISTERED BY
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
P. O. BOX 176
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102

YCC Objectives

The Youth Conservation Corps, established in 1974 by Public Law 93-408, is designed to further the development and maintenance of natural resources through the employment of young men and women on conservation projects in parks, forests and other public land and water areas. The program is administered jointly by the U.S. Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture Forest Service and is operating in Missouri state parks through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

In addition to developing and maintaining natural resources, a primary objective of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) is to help prepare young persons for the ultimate responsibility of the future management of these resources. Three equally important goals, reflected by legislation and stressed in the YCC program, follow:

- To accomplish needed conservation work on public land.
- To provide gainful employment for 15 through 18 year-old males and females from all social, economic, ethnic and racial classifications.
- To develop an understanding and appreciation, in participating youth, of the nation's natural environment and heritage.

These objectives are to be accomplished in a manner that will provide participants with an opportunity to acquire increased dignity and self-discipline, to improve his or her ability to work with and relate to peers and supervisors and to build lasting cultural bridges between youth from various social, economic and racial backgrounds.

The Youth Conservation Corps properly integrates working, learning and living experiences in a natural environment. The program requires a full commitment from participants and staff, but imparts an increased environmental knowledge and awareness from participating in meaningful work projects. In addition, group living provides YCC members with the opportunity to enjoy the company of the group through social activities during non-working hours.

The Residential Camps

Youth Conservation Corp camps operate seven days a week. They are coeducational, residential youth camps which are federally funded and are administered in Missouri by the state Department of Natural Resources' Division of Parks and Historic Preservation.

Corps members are selected through a state-wide recruiting program under the supervision of the Missouri Division of Employment Security. Workers selected are paid federal minimum wages for 30 hours per week. In addition, approximately 10 hours are spent in environmental study sessions. A nominal fee is charged for room and board while at camp.

Those attending a YCC camp are under the leadership of competent staffs, composed of a camp director and three counselors, who are college graduates or college students trained in environmental education, counseling, and outdoor recreation. The staff also is trained in first aid and industrially accepted safety practices to help provide a safe environment for camp activities.

The Work-Study Program

The work-study program provides a true merging of these two processes—work and study. Work projects are designed to bring participants into direct contact with nature; therefore, the educational aspects of the program are never separated from the work. The projects, which usually require energy of both the mind and muscle, encourage corp members to develop a better appreciation of ecological concepts through on-the-job observations and instruction offered by the camp staff. Typical projects undertaken by YCC members include the development and maintenance of hiking trails; construction and expansion of public use areas such as picnic grounds, playgrounds and parking facilities; and the management and preservation of vegetation and wildlife.

Weekly environmental study sessions also are part of the learning experience at YCC camps. With the guidance of counselors and peers, the YCC member will be able to relate to his environment within the structured class sessions as well as at work and during recreational activities.

Eligibility

All candidates must meet the following requirements:

1. Be 15 years old, but not yet 19.
2. Be permanent residents of the United States or its territories or possessions.
3. Have a desire to work in the outdoors and become involved in the development and maintenance of the nation's natural environment.
4. Have no history of serious criminal or other antisocial behavior that might jeopardize their own safety or that of others.
5. Be recommended by school principals, guidance counselors, teachers, or other responsible adults other than parents.
6. Be physically qualified to participate fully in the various work and training projects of the YCC camp program. Medical exams by a qualified physician and immunizations listed in Part 1 of the Medical History Form are needed. The completed Medical History form should be brought to camp by the enrollee.
7. Have or be able to obtain parental or legal guardian consent to enroll in the program. All applications include a consent form containing a statement that a parent or guardian is responsible for non-work related medical expenses due to injury or illness.
8. Be able to provide themselves with work clothing: Laced work boots, socks, jeans, long and short sleeved shirts and/or sweatshirts, work gloves, and a hat with brim or bill.
9. Pay own transportation to and from camp.

Camp Rules

The following rules will be enforced at camp. Violation of any of them will be grounds for immediate dismissal with simultaneous notification to parents or guardian.

1. Motor vehicles may not be used at camp. If an individual uses his own vehicle for transportation to the camp, it will be impounded at the camp for the duration of enrollment. With the written approval of a parent or guardian, cars may be used during the mid-camp break and for special occasions.
2. No alcoholic beverages, drugs or narcotics are allowed, and may not be used during camp enrollment.
3. Boating, fishing and swimming are allowed only at designated times and locations. These activities are supervised by camp staff.
4. Beds must be made and sheets changed on specified days, and corps members should keep themselves and their living areas neat and clean.
5. Participation in daily camp routine is required. This includes observing the daily schedule and returning to camp at an appropriate time when granted a pass.
6. Enrollees are expected to do such jobs as may be assigned by the camp staff. Assignments are rotated to provide a variety of work experiences.
7. All accidents and injuries regardless of seriousness must be reported to the camp director.
8. A pass, granted by the camp director, is required before a corps member may leave camp. Visiting hours for parents and friends are from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. Visitors should make arrangements in advance, as some weekends camp enrollees will be involved in recreation activities outside the park.

Salary

Youth Conservation Corps members will be paid the prevailing federal minimum wage for the 30 hours per week during which they actually will be working. A total of \$11.50 per week will be deducted for food and lodging. Workers will be paid near the 20th of each month, so enough money should be brought to camp to last until the first paycheck.

Medical Care

All enrollees in the YCC program are covered by Workmen's Compensation benefits in the event of any injury resulting from an accident while actively engaged in a YCC work project.

Enrollees who become ill, or sustain injuries other than as mentioned above will be responsible for payment of any medical costs resulting from the treatment of such illness or injury.

The Camp Director is responsible for the enrollee's health, and will, when required, transport the enrollee to a medical clinic or hospital for treatment as necessary. Parents or guardian will be notified immediately.

If possible, the enrollee should be provided with the proper documents to show proof of insurance where applicable.

It is further recommended that the enrollee have a tetanus shot if he or she has not received the series or a booster within the last three years.

Work Activities

Work will include nature trail construction, development of picnic areas and parking lots, park and camp maintenance, working at the Nature Interpretive Center and working with the park ranger in providing activities and information for park visitors. Safety equipment is provided for wear while engaged in work projects and shall be worn at all times while actively engaged in work.

Educational Activities

Educational activities will be mainly concerned with the environment: nature hikes, field trips, nature projects, audio-visual presentations and tours.

Recreational Activities

All Corps members will have an opportunity to contribute ideas concerning leisure activities. Some possibilities are horseback riding, swimming, camping, volleyball, float trips, shopping, card playing, movies, music (bring your own instruments), crafts, etc.

What to Bring

Living quarters are furnished with bunks, mattresses, mattress covers, and chests or dressers. Other items must be supplied by enrollees.

Besides boots and two or three sets of durable work clothes, enrollees should bring one or two sets of casual clothing, underwear, rain gear (raincoat, rain suit, or poncho), shoes, tennis shoes, thongs, swim suit, jacket, coat hangers, towels and washcloths, toiletries, prescription medicine (if any), sun tan lotion, insect repellent, stationery, ballpoint pens, notebook (spiral ring), padlock, two sets of sheets (for single bed), blankets, pillow, laundry detergent and expense money.

Other items that enrollee might wish to bring are: sunglasses, flashlight, portable radio, camera, table lamp, pocket knife, canteen, sleeping bag and other camping gear, nature books and paperback novels, throw rugs, posters, and even a bicycle.

Storage space for clothing in the rooms is limited, so think carefully about the amount of clothing you bring.

All of your personal belongings should be permanently marked with your name or initials.

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